IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the instant application. The present status of each claim is indicated in parentheses following the claim number. An instruction line precedes each claim that is amended, cancelled, or added by the instant paper.

Please **amend** claim 1 as follows:

1. (Currently amended) An isolated peptide comprising the peptide sequence of formula (I),

Xaa-Cys-Xab-Cys-Xac-Cys-Xad-Cys-Xae-Cys-Xaf-Cys-Xag
(SEQ ID NO:39)

(I)

in which:

Xaa represents an N-terminal NH_2- (amino) moiety or a ~~variable number of amino acid residues~~peptide fragment consisting ~~essentially~~ of from 1 to 10 amino acid residues, at least one of which is a basic amino acid residue;

Xab represents ~~a variable number of~~10 amino acid ~~residues consisting essentially of from 1 to 10~~ residues;

Xac represents 3 amino acid residues, comprising at least one acidic amino acid residue;

Xad represents the peptide sequence ~~Lys Xad' Xad" Gly His (SEQ ID NO:40), in which Xad' represents 1 basic amino acid and Xad" represents a variable number of amino acid residues comprising from 0 to 5 residues~~, -Lys-Arg-Arg-Gly-Tyr-Lys-Gly-Gly-His- (SEQ ID NO:41);

Xae represents ~~a variable number of amino acid residues consisting essentially of from 1 to 7 residues~~the peptide sequence -Gly-Xae'-Ans- (SEQ ID NO:44), in which Xae' represents 5 amino acid residues;

Xaf represents ~~1 amino acid residue~~the amino acid -Trp-; and

Xag represents a C-terminal -COOH (carboxyl) moiety or a ~~variable number of amino acid residues consisting essentially of from 1 to 5~~

~~residues.~~peptide fragment consisting of from 1 to 2 amino acid residues,

Wherein said peptide has an antifungal activity.

Please **cancel** claim 2 without prejudice or disclaimer.

2. (Cancelled)

Please **amend** claim 3 as follows

3. (Currently Amended) The peptide of ~~Claim 2~~Claim 1, wherein Xad comprises 1, 2, 3 or 4 basic amino acids.

Please **amend** claim 4 as follows:

4. (Currently Amended) The peptide of ~~Claim 2~~Claim 1, wherein the basic amino acids are selected from the group consisting of lysine, arginine and homoarginine.

5. (Cancelled)

Please **cancel** claims 6-7 without prejudice or disclaimer.

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously presented) The peptide of Claim 1, wherein Xac represents the peptide sequence -Asn-Xac'-Xac"-, in which Xac' represents 1 amino acid, and Xac" represents 1 acidic amino acid.

Please **amend** claim 9 as follows:

9. (Currently Amended) The peptide of ~~Claim 7~~Claim 1, characterized in that the acidic amino acids are chosen from glutamic acid (Glu) or aspartic acid (Asp).

10. (Previously presented) The peptide of Claim 1, wherein Xac represents the peptide sequence -Asn-Gly-Glu-.

Please **amend** claim 11 as follows:

11. (Currently amended) The peptide of Claim 1, wherein

Xaa represents the peptide sequence Xaa'-Gly-Xaa"- (SEQ ID NO:42), in which Xaa' represents an N-terminal NH_2- (amino) moiety or a ~~variable number of amino acid residues comprising 1 to 9~~peptide fragment consisting of from 1 to 8 amino acid residues, and Xaa" represents ~~a variable number of amino acid residues comprising at least~~ one acidic amino acid; and/or

Xab represents the peptide sequence -Val-Xab'-Asp- (SEQ ID NO:43) in which Xab' represents ~~a variable number of amino acid residues comprising~~ from 0 to 8 amino acid residues; and/or

~~Xac represents the peptide sequence -Gly-Xac'-Asn- (SEQ ID NO:44), in which Xac' represents a variable number of amino acid residues comprising from 0 to 5 residues; and/or~~

~~Xaf represents one of the amino acids Trp, Phe, Leu, Ile or Val; and/or~~

Xag represents the peptide sequence -Glu-Xag' (SEQ ID NO:45), in which Xag' represents a C-terminal -COOH (carboxyl) moiety or ~~a variable number of~~

~~amino acid residues comprising from 1 to 4 residues~~1 amino acid residue.

Please **amend** claim 12 as follows:

12. (Currently amended) The peptide of Claim 1, wherein

Xaa represents the peptide sequence NH_2-Asp-Lys-Leu-Ile-Gly-Ser- (SEQ ID NO:46), in which NH_2- represents an N-terminal NH_2- (amino) moiety; and/or

Xab represents the peptide sequence -Val-Trp-Gly-Ala-Val-Asn-Tyr-Thr-Ser-Asp- (SEQ ID NO:47); and/or

Xae represents the peptide sequence -Gly-Ser-Phe-Ala-Asn-Val-Asn (SEQ ID NO:48); and/or

~~Xaf represents the amino acid Trp ; and/or~~

Xag represents the peptide sequence -Glu-Thr-COOH, wherein -COOH represents a C-terminal carboxyl moiety.

13. (Previously presented) The peptide of Claim 1, wherein said peptide has the amino acid sequence encoded by SEQ ID NO:2.

Please **amend** claim 14 as follows:

14. (Currently amended) The peptide of Claim 1, wherein said peptide comprises at either of its ends, or at both ends, amino acid residues necessary for its expression and ~~extracellular or subcellular localization in a host organism~~targeting to a specific compartment of the host organism.

15. (Previously presented) The peptide of Claim 1, wherein the cysteine residues of the peptide of formula (I) form at least one intramolecular disulfide bridge.

16. (Previously presented) The peptide of Claim 15, wherein said peptide comprises disulfide bridges established between the first and fourth cysteine residues, the second and fifth cysteine residues, and the third and sixth cysteine residues of the peptide sequence of formula (I).

17. (Previously presented) A fusion peptide comprising the peptide of Claim 1.

18. (Previously presented) The fusion peptide of Claim 17, wherein the peptide comprises a signal peptide or a transit peptide.

19. (Previously presented) The fusion peptide of Claim 18, wherein the transit peptide is selected from the group consisting of the signal peptide encoded by the tobacco PR-1α gene, the signal peptide present at the N-terminal of the precursor of factor Mat alpha 1, and the signal peptide encoded by the maize polygalacturonase PG1 gene.

20. (Cancelled)

21. (Cancelled)

22. (Previously presented) A composition which comprises the peptide of Claim 1 and an appropriate vehicle.

23-45. (Cancelled)

46. (Previously presented) A method of preparing the peptide of Claim 1, comprising culturing a transformed organism that contains a nucleic acid encoding said

peptide in an appropriate culture medium; extracting said peptide; and totally or partially purifying said peptide.

Please **amend** claim 47 as follows:

47. (Currently amended) The peptide of Claim 1, wherein Xaa represents an N-terminal NH_2- (amino) moiety or ~~a variable number of amino acid residues consisting essentially of~~ from 1 to 6 amino acid residues.

Please **cancel** claims 48-50 without prejudice or disclaimer.

48. (Cancelled)

49. (Cancelled)

50. (Cancelled)

51. (Previously presented) The peptide of Claim 1, wherein Xac comprises one acidic amino acid.

Please **amend** claim 52 as follows:

52. (Currently amended) The peptide of Claim 1, wherein Xaa represents the peptide sequence Xaa'-Gly-Xaa"- (SEQ ID NO:42), in which Xaa' represents an N-terminal NH_2- (amino) moiety or a ~~variable number of amino acid residues comprising 1 to 5~~peptide fragment consisting of from 1 to 5 amino acid residues, and Xaa" represents ~~a variable number of amino acid residues comprising at least one~~an amino acid selected from the group consisting of Leu, Ile, Val, Pro, Ser and Thr.

53. (Previously presented) The peptide of Claim 1, wherein Xab represents the peptide sequence -Val-Xab'-Asp- (SEQ ID NO:43) in which Xab' represents 8 amino acid residues.

Please **cancel** claim 54 without prejudice or disclaimer.

54. (Cancelled)

55. (Previously presented) The peptide of Claim 1, wherein Xag represents the peptide sequence -Glu-Xag' (SEQ ID NO:45), in which Xag' represents a C-terminal -COOH (carboxyl) moiety or one amino acid residue.